

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1889.

The Holiday Season.

The rush and whirl of the holiday season is upon us. Family reunions, gay festivities, the exchange of gifts of remembrance, fill the fast, fleeting hours. Amidst these gayeties there is room for thought, for thanksgiving, and for the work of sweet charity. Through the exercise of the kinder graces of human character, there is unconsciously exhibited the results which have flowed from the advent into the world of the infant Jesus, whose life and teachings have made Christmas a glad day, and the world largely a Christian world.

That men are still harsh and cruel, and the nations unjust, but proves that the heaven of Christianity has not yet leavened the whole lump. Christmas day has been the merriest for the life of Him whom it commemorates, and may we also hope that the new year shall be not only happy, but happier than ever before.

The Chestnut Hill Station.

This pretty depot upon the New York and Greenwood Lake Railway, is now nearing completion. Looking out toward the east, where the trains are lost from sight in the deep cut, its graceful form attracts the eye from a great distance north and south. Soon trains will begin to stop, and it will then assume the prosaic duties of a railway station. It is important that for this purpose it should be made as accessible as possible. To this end stone walks should be built along the neighboring streets. Avenues should also be opened directly to the depot. Especially should some direct thoroughfare be provided for residents on Forest Avenue. For some years the bridge over the railroad has been impassable, and this end of the avenue has been practically closed. There is now an opportunity, by discontinuing the bridge along Benson street, to secure the extension of Forest Avenue to Wildwood Terrace. This would give an almost direct road to the new depot, which would be a great convenience to a large number of residents in this neighborhood. Several other projects for streets have been suggested, but certainly none would be so advantageous as this. With proper approaches the new depot will prove a desirable attraction to this beautiful neighborhood.

The Dangers of Electric Lighting.

Under the title of "A Reply to Mr. Edison," Mr. George Westinghouse, Jr., contributes some important facts to the discussion of the dangers of electricity, in the *North American Review* for December.

Remembering the statements which have been made in regard to the safety of the low-tension continuous currents of Mr. Edison, some of the counter statements here given are significant.

Mr. Westinghouse says: "I have witnessed the roasting of a large piece of fresh beef by a direct continuous current of less than 100 volts within two minutes. With a continuous current of 400 volts, a dog weighing fifty-seven and a half pounds was killed in forty seconds." He quotes from Mr. Edison as follows: "Near the corner of William and Wall streets, New York, the underground conductors of the Edison Illuminating Company became crossed, and the current which was passing through them at a pressure of only one hundred and ten volts melted not only the wires, but several feet of iron tubing in which they were incased, and reduced the paving stones within a radius of three or four feet to a molten mass." He discusses methods of distribution and underground cables with the effort to show that the alternating current is more easily controlled, and less liable to accident, than the continuous current.

Without undertaking to decide where experts disagree, the average man will no doubt consider all methods of using electricity for lighting purposes as imperfect until there is less danger to human life than now, and until more economical methods of distribution are invented. The fire risk from electricity is also to be considered. Upon the whole, it is likely that time will demonstrate the wisdom of the action taken at the public meeting on Friday last. The experiments which are elsewhere making upon an extensive scale will no doubt result in substantial gains with each passing month, until at last a safe and economical system of electric lighting has been devised. Meanwhile, it will be well to study the various processes, so as to be thoroughly informed as to their merits.

The township of Montclair has under consideration the purchase of the Montclair Water Company's plant. A communication from Mr. John K. Barrett, the President of the company, was read at the last meeting of the Town Committee stating that the company's expenditures up to date had been \$200,000, and the town could have the plant for the above amount with interest attached.

Transacting Public Business behind Closed Doors.

Members of the Bloomfield Improvement Association not long since indulged in some very caustic remarks about the "secret" sessions and "star chamber" proceedings of the Township Committee. The members of the committee felt considerably hurt by the criticisms, and did not hesitate to say so. The substance of the speeches made in the meetings of the Improvement Association were to the effect that there was too much "executive session" business carried on by the committee, and that there was too much whispering over transactions in which the public was concerned. Out of consideration for the members of the Township Committee THE CITIZEN refrained from publishing these strictures at the time. It is an admitted fact that the position of Township Committee is a thankless one and subjects the honored incumbent to annoyance and abuse. Criticism is not necessarily abuse, and is often justifiable even when unpleasant. The denunciation of secretiveness on the part of a body of public officials in conducting public business is eminently proper and just. Censorship has led the public to look to the newspaper for a full account of the deliberations of bodies like a Township Committee. The public have a right to know everything that transpires there, from the voting of an appropriation for road repair to the compromise with a delinquent taxpayer. The newspaper that fails to give this full information fails in its duty, either through design on the part of the officials to keep the public in ignorance, or by being in collusion with the officials who are consciously or unconsciously hoodwinking their constituents.

Electric Lighting Postponed.

The adoption of electric lights in place of gas in this town has been indefinitely postponed. The United Edison Electric Light Company last week, previous to the assembling of the public meeting on Friday night, declined to enter into a contract on the terms proposed by the committee. The company's counsel, H. M. Barrett, made this fact known to the public at that meeting after several citizens had expressed their opinions in the matter. The sentiment of the meeting as expressed was unanimously against the signing of the contract. Whether the declarations on the part of the company would have been final had public sentiment made itself manifest in their favor was not stated. There was a good attendance at the Hall.

The chairman of the Township Committee, Mr. Theodore H. Ward, presided. The other members of the committee were on the platform with him. Clerk Edward F. Farrand read the call of the meeting. Mr. J. D. Gallagher recommended that the contract be read, and that it be discussed separately. Mr. Amzi Dodd suggested that the question whether the town wanted to enter into a contract at all be disposed of first. Mr. Edward Wilde concurred in this suggestion, and considered the reading of the contract a probable waste of time, as it had been published and the public given opportunity to familiarize themselves with its terms. Mr. Edward Oakes inquired whether the Town Committee were committed to the Edison Company, and said that he understood that other bids had been \$1000 lower. Mr. Amzi Dodd then proceeded to give his views on the subject before the meeting. He said the first question to be considered was whether we had come to a point where it was necessary and expedient to change our present method of lighting our streets and substitute electric lights. General knowledge in regard to electricity was yet in a very imperfect state. A great advancement had been made in the past few years. New developments were constantly being made. In the present condition of the science a system involving all the latest improvements of the present might be obsolete in the near future. Many debatable questions were involved in the contract, questions in which electrical experts themselves disagree. There was a widespread apprehension of danger to life and property by the introduction of the wires into the public streets. The recent numerous accidents chronicled in the newspapers give good reason for this apprehension. Electric lighting was yet in an experimental state. There was no necessity that we should experiment. There was much to be said in favor of the electric light. It possessed certain advantages over gas. Whether it was an improvement or not was a debatable question. If it was universally considered so, the public would be in favor of it. The public would lose nothing by allowing this opportunity to make a contract go by. Whenever they were ready to make a contract there would always be parties ready to meet them. The present contract was no doubt a very good one for the Edison Company. Mr. Dodd spoke of the eager competition among the several electric light companies to get possession of territory. Mr. E. Wilde read a letter from Mr. R. S. Rudd and others in Glen Ridge, opposing the signing of the contract, based chiefly on an opposition to overhead wires. Mr. Wilde himself also spoke against it, as did also Mr. Gallagher. Mr. Gallagher said that he had obtained figures from electrical experts as to the cost of putting wires under ground, which varied from \$20,000 to \$100,000 for a system such as is comprehended in the proposed contract. Mr. Wilde submitted a resolution that a committee of five citizens be appointed to make inquiry into the cost of an electric light system for this town, with the wires put under ground. Mr. H. M. Barrett, speaking for the company, gave a review of the whole transaction, from the introduction of the Bloomfield Improvement Association's request to the Township Committee for the adoption of electric lights down to the present time. Mr. Barrett denied any disposition of the company to take an unfair advantage of the township, and also refuted an allusion made by Mr. Wilde to "watered stock." Mr. Barrett said that particular inquiry had been made with regard to the cost of putting wires under ground. The best system yet devised was that of the Spiral Wire Tube Company, which cost \$5,000 per mile. Mr. Barrett stated that the amount of capital that would have to be laid out by the company organized to run the proposed electric light plant would be as follows: To the Edison Company, \$27,000; building lot, \$1,000; plant, \$3,000. The contract just submitted by the Town Committee was very strict in its terms than any ever in-

posed on the company. The contract for street lighting could only be granted for one year at a time. There was a possibility that a future committee might refuse to renew it. The sentiment of the people just at present seemed adverse to making a contract, and not desiring to take any undue advantage, the Edison Company politely declined to sign the contract, and withdrew from the field. Mr. Ward said that this action of the company had practically taken the matter out of the hands of the committee. If the citizens wished to take any further action in the matter they were at liberty to do so. The committee then adjourned to their business room, and the meeting broke up without taking any action on the resolution offered by Mr. Wilde.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, Lucas County.
I, FRANK J. CHENEY, make oath that I am the senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & CO., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.
FRANK J. CHENEY.
Sworn to before me and subscribers to my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1889.
A. W. GILSON, Notary Public.
Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free.
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JOSEPH K. OAKES, Vice President.

Office, Broad St. Near Bloomfield Ave.

Hours, 9 A. M. to 4 P. M. Also, Mondays and Saturdays from 4 to 8 P. M.

STATEMENT, OCT. 18th, 1889.

ASSETS.	
Bonds and Mortgages	\$111,300.00
U. S. Bonds (market value)	19,350.00
Real Estate	2,900.00
Interest due and accrued	1,242.20
Cash on Hand and in Bank	1,865.08
	\$146,757.28
LIABILITIES.	
Due Depositors	\$136,561.40
Surplus	\$10,195.88

Interest is credited to depositors on the first day of January and July in each year for the three and six months then ending. Deposits made on or before the first business day in January, April, July and October, bear interest from the first day of the month when credited. All interest when credited at once becomes principal and bears interest accordingly.

JOSEPH H. DODD, Treasurer.

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